खुदरा बिक्री केन्द्रों डीलरशिपों के लाइसेंस रद्द कर दिये गये है ।

**Pending dealers Cases**

1981. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 5000 cases of dealerships of petroleum and L.P.G. are pending for selection for more than a year;

(b) if so, details thereof and by when the selection procedure will start;

(c) whether it is a fact that a panel of 50 ex-judges is to be set-up for the purpose; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that an amount of Rs. Six crores has been already spent in the process of setting up Selection Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. More than 5300 locations are pending for selection of dealers/distributors all over the country. Government has decided to constitute 52 Dealer Selection Board (DSBs), of which 43 DSBs have already been constituted and with this the process of selection has already been set in motion. As these DSBs have been constituted recently, it may not be possible to quantify the expenditure incurred thereon at present.

**Drilling Operation for CBM in Raniganj**

1982. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether "Well Release Order" was issued by ONGC in November, 1996 to evaluate methane potential of all the coal seams of Raniganj formation;

(b) whether a rig was decided to be transferred in the area for drilling purpose as per a release order in April, 1997 from WRBC and ONGC; and

(c) if so, the present status and the reasons for the delay in taking up drilling operation for CBM in Raniganj area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) After taking the decision referred to in (b) above, ONGC on 1.8.97 decided to await the implementation of the new policy of Government for undertaking CBM exploration based on ONGC's assessment of the offered blocks and preferably in strategic alliance with a partner. Thereafter, ONGC, on 28.11.1998 have applied for the grant of a Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) for CBM exploration in one of the blocks of Raniganj basin. The said PEL is to be granted by the Govt. of West Bengal with the prior approval of the Central Government. ONGC now proposes to commence the CBM exploraion in this area after the grant of the PEL.

**Exploration of coal bed methane in Vidarbha region**

1983. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in depth studies of the formation of vast coal basis in

Vidarbha region has established the existence of coal bed methane gas in huge quantity for industrial use;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Maharashtra have urged for exploration by ONGC and KDMIPE on priority basis in view of the importance of natural gas and boosting coal mining and industrial activity in the region, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of time-bound action taken/proposed by Government for exploration of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) in Vidarbha region through ONGC and KDMIPE on priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) ONGC has so far not performed any study on coal fields of Maharashtra for Coil Bed Methane exploration/exploitation purposes.

However, M/s. State Industrial Investment Corporation of Maharashtra (SICOM) is in touch with KDMIPE, an R&D Institute of ONGC, to finalise programmes for identification of Coal Bed Methane potentiality for Vidarbha region of Maharashtra.

**Drilling Holiday in West Bengal.**

1984. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the Kingston's report, drilling holiday in West Bengal was supposed to be in effect for three years from 1992 onwards with intensive continuous seismic survey applying latest technology;

(b) if so, whether the drilling holiday is over;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the detailed result of seismic survey done so far in West Bengal after processing of the available date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No Sir, Mr. John Kingston, a foreign expert was given a contract to evaluate Bengal Basin and he submitted his report to ONGC in January, 1996.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) As on 1.10.1998, a total of 36664 GLK of 2D and 269 SSK plus 1255 GLK and 67 sq. km. of 3D seismic data has been acquired by ONGC in West Bengal Onland and 8617 GLK 2D seismic data in Offshore. Based on analysis of these data, 40 wells have been drillied in onland and 7 in offshore.

As per Kingston's recommendations 285 GLK of 2D in Contai area and 1255 GLK of 3D in south West of Ichapur area have been acquired so far. The acquired data are in various stages of processing interpretation and no new prospect have been firmed up so far.

**Offshore oil discoveries**

1985. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA' Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have not been significant offshore oil discoveries in the mid-eighties;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have any long term strategy in this regard, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?